



U.S. Department of Justice  
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Office of the Executive Associate Commissioner

425 I Street NW  
Washington, DC 20536

**JAN 5 2000**

Juan Miguel Gonzalez-Quintana  
Calle Cossio # 170  
Cardenas, Cuba

Dear Mr. Gonzalez-Quintana,

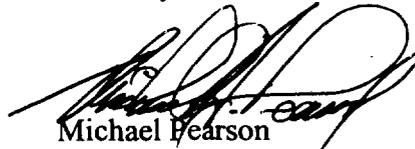
Thank you for meeting with United States representatives from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the Department of State (DOS) on December 13th and 31st. We have reviewed the information and documents you have provided to establish your relationship to **Elian** Gonzalez. We have determined that you are **Elian's** biological father and lawful guardian and, as such, you have the right and obligation to represent **Elian** in all legal transactions and acts in which **Elian** has an interest. Therefore, we recognize your authority to speak on behalf of your son **Elian** in immigration matters. Consequently, we are granting your request to withdraw **Elian's** application for admission to the United States, a key step in reuniting you with your son. Also, consistent with the wishes you expressed at our two interviews with you, we accept your decision not to assert **Elian's** right to apply for asylum in the United States.

We are contacting your relatives in **Miami**, who have been caring for **Elian** since his rescue at sea, and Roger Bernstein, the attorney who has asserted that he and his associates represent **Elian** in immigration matters, to advise them of our decision. We have explained to them that you have expressly declined to authorize Mr. Bernstein and his associates to represent **Elian** in immigration matters, and that we therefore cannot recognize them as **Elian's** representatives. We have also explained that we have determined that, according to your wishes, **Elian** is not asserting his right to apply for asylum in the United States. Therefore, we are not accepting the asylum applications prepared and submitted by Mr. Bernstein and his associates and signed by **Elian** or Lazaro Gonzalez.

As you are aware from our meeting, the process of returning your son to Cuba is complicated and although we hope to receive cooperation from your family in Miami, there may be delays or challenges to our decision. It is our hope that you and your relatives in Miami will be able to work together as a family to ensure that **Elian** is returned to you as quickly as possible. We have asked them to work out an arrangement for returning **Elian** to you by the end of next week. Should you wish to come to the United States to pick up **Elian** or should your relatives in Miami want to escort him back to Cuba, the Immigration and Naturalization Service would be pleased to provide whatever assistance would be appropriate. We are also aware that neutral

third parties have offered to facilitate **Eliau's** return to you. Should you wish to seek the assistance of such a third party, we are ready to work with them as arrangements are sought to reunite you and your son.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Pearson", written over a printed name.

Michael Pearson  
Executive Associate & Commissioner  
for Field Operations